



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# News Release

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## **Heading for the Finish Line: City of Riverside Exceeds Renaissance Initiative Goals**

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – In October, 2006, the City embarked on what would be the most ambitious capital improvement program any community has ever witnessed: providing 30 years' of capital investment in only five years! Originally, 250 crucial projects were identified to upgrade the convenience, safety and quality of life for residents and businesses. As formidable as this undertaking sounds—250 projects in 5 years—what's more miraculous is the fact that the City actually exceeded this goal beyond even Council's wildest expectations with a 135% success rate! To date, the City Council has approved 397 projects with 271 completed, 85 projects under construction, 5 projects out to bid and 36 projects in design.

Though long-predicted and often warned about, the depth and magnitude of the economic downturn took pretty much the entire world by surprise. Concerns about what local governments could and should do were debated in municipalities across the country. In Riverside, the question was quickly answered: the Renaissance Initiative. Pushing ahead with the Renaissance program kept local construction jobs alive and gave Riverside the advantage of a competitive bidding climate and lower costs. Even more important was the foresight behind the overall strategy of the Renaissance. Because of this unprecedented self-investment, Riverside is ready for the opportunities ahead as the economy recovers with the amenities and infrastructure that sparkle like new in a City that's over 100 years old.

As the finish line is fast approaching the City has celebrated new streets, parks, libraries, community centers, fire stations, railroad crossings, and many more essential facilities, touching every ward and every neighborhood in Riverside.

Highlights include: the renovation of the downtown historic Fox Theatre; 4 new libraries and renovation or expansion of 4 additional libraries; renovation of the Metropolitan Museum and the Municipal Auditorium; construction of 4 new fire stations and a state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center; construction of 4 new community parks, a world-class joint use aquatics center at Riverside City College, a tennis center, 4 new community centers, 2 new senior centers, and improvements to every park and community center within the city; 2 railroad grade separations are completed, 1 is underway and 4 are planned for construction within the next 3 years, as well as a railroad quiet zone to relieve noise pollution for residents; 2 new freeway interchanges; landscape enhancements; and water and electrical infrastructure improvements.

With this long list of accomplishments, it is clear to residents, business owners and visitors that Riverside has undergone a major re-birth with a legacy that will carry on for generations to come. For more information on the transformative change to the City, visit [www.riversiderenaissance.org](http://www.riversiderenaissance.org)

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